



**Township of Howick Council Minutes
Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Howick Council Chambers**

1. Call to Order

Reeve Harding called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

2. Confirmation of the Agenda

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Rognvaldson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby adopts the April 7, 2026, Council Agenda as presented.

Carried.

3. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest under the “Municipal Conflict of Interest Act”

None declared.

4. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That the Council of the Township of Howick hereby adopts the following minutes:

4.1 March 24, 2026, Council Meeting Minutes

Carried.

5. Public Meetings/Hearings

6. Delegations and/or Presentations

7. Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda are considered routine and are enacted in one motion. Prior to the motion being voted on, any Council Member may request that one or more items be removed from the Consent Agenda and discussed and/or voted on separately.

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That Consent Agenda items 7.1 and 7.2 be received for information and approved.

**7.1 BLDG-2026-02, First Quarter Building Permit Comparison Summary
For Information Only.**

**7.2 PW-2026-06, April Department Update
For Information Only.**

Carried.

8. Regular Agenda

8.1 Planning – Huron County Planner Sarah Kurtz

Reeve Harding called upon Huron County Planner Sarah Kurtz and Manager of Planning Denise Van Amersfoort to review their report on the 2026 Zoning by-law housekeeping amendments. Planner Sarah Kurtz expressed that she is looking for further direction for the proposed by-law. A member of the public did reach out for additional information, clarification was provided and no additional responses were received.

8.1.1 2026 Housekeeping Amendment to the Howick Zoning Bylaw

**Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson
Seconded by: Councillor Grimes**

That Howick Council receive the 2026 Housekeeping Amendment to the Howick Zoning By-Law report and presentation from Sarah Kurtz and Denise Van Amersfoort for Information;

And That Council approve the zoning by-law amendment 2026 Housekeeping Amendment, in accordance with the draft by-law attached to this report;

And That Howick Council consider the by-law to amend the Zoning By-law, as presented in the by-law portion of the April 7, 2026, Council Agenda.

Carried.

9. Municipal Drains - Drainage Superintendent Scott Richardson

10. Staff Reports

10.1 Chief Building Official Ed Podniewicz

10.2 Manager of Development and Protective Services/Fire Chief - Josh Kestner

10.3 Manager of Public Works – Scott Price

10.4 Manager of Recreation and Facilities - Brady Ropp

10.4.1 REC-2026-03, Authorized Recreation Provider Agreement

This is a renewal of the Authorized Recreation Provider Agreement with the County. This allows families that meet the requirements for financial subsidy to receive financial assistance directly from the County of Huron.

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That Howick Council receives report REC-2026-02, Authorized Recreation Provider Agreement for information.

And That Council authorizes the Reeve and CAO/Clerk to Enter into and Execute a Recreation Program Service Agreement with the County of Huron for the purpose of being recognized as an Authorized Recreation Service Provider to provide subsidies for Recreation Child Care Programs and Services.

Carried.

10.4.2 REC-2026-04, Authorized Recreation Provider Expanded Hours Declaration

The renewal of our Authorized Recreation Provider Expanded Hours Declaration with the Ministry of Education. This allows us to operate on PA Days, March Break, and during Christmas Break.

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That Howick Council hereby receives report REC-2026-04, Authorized Recreation Provider Expanded Hours Declaration

And That Council authorizes the Manager of Recreation and Facilities to Enter into and Execute a Declaration Agreement with the Ministry of Education for the purpose of being recognized as an Authorized Recreation Service Provider with expanded hours for the 2026-27 school year.

Carried.

10.4.3 REC-2026-05, Front End Sweeper Purchase

The Recreation & Facilities Department and Public Works Department would like to purchase a front-end sweeper from their operating budgets. The sweeper would be used for sidewalk sweeping in the spring, recreation would use it for

grass sweeping at the arena as well as trail maintenance. The large sweeper that public works has is not ideal for sidewalks and the grass. The tractor that the recreation department has is already equipped with a quick attach attachment that is required for the sweeper. Staff are recommending purchasing the sweeper from Midwestern Equipment.

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That Howick Council hereby receives report REC-2026-05, Front End Sweeper Purchase for information;

And That Council authorizes the Public Works and Recreation Departments to purchase a BX2814A Kubota Sweeper from Midwestern Equipment in the amount of \$4,410.00 (excluding HST) with funds being used from Public Works and Recreation operating budgets.

Carried.

10.5 Treasurer/Manager of Finance - Amy Van Meeteren

10.5.1 FIN-2026-10, 2026 Tax Rate By-law

At the February 10, 2026 Council meeting, the 2026 Capital and Operating Budgets were passed with a municipal tax rate increase of 5.34% plus a 2% capital levy. The County of Huron passed their 2026 budget on March 18, 2026 with a tax rate increase of 2.78%. The Education Property Tax rates are staying the same as 2025, resulting in the overall 2026 tax rate increase being 5.13%. The total amount of funds to be raised in 2026 is \$8,817,623.00

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That the Council of the Township of Howick pass by-law 21-2026; being a by-law to adopt the 2026 Tax Rates for the Township of Howick.

Carried.

10.6 CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis

10.6.1 ADM-2026-05, Integrity Commissioner Appointment

The *Municipal Act* requires all Ontario Municipalities to appoint an Integrity Commissioner. Aird & Berlis has been our Integrity Commissioner since March 2019. Our last contract ended February 18, 2026. On the advice of John Mescarin, the new agreement covers the 2026-2030 term of Council. The agreement was sent to council to review; there are no up-front fees for retainer.

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That Howick Council appoint Aird & Berlis LLP as the Integrity Commissioner for the Corporation of the Township of Howick, for a five-year term beginning March 1, 2026, and ending on March 31, 2031;

And That the CAO/Clerk be Authorized to Enter into and Execute the Agreement and all documents relevant to this appointment.

Carried.

11. Committee and Board Reports

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That Howick Council adopt the following Committee and Board Minutes:

11.1 Belmore Community Centre Arena Board – Meeting Minutes and Financial Report - February 16, 2026

Carried.

12. Correspondence

12.1 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Building Homes and Improving Transportation Infrastructure Act, 2026 (Bill 98)

12.2 Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority- Quarterly Update

12.3 Maitland Valley Conservation Authority – Financial Statements

12.4 Municipality of Bluewater – Ontario Regulation 391/21: Blue Box

12.5 Huron OPP Detachment Board – January 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes

12.6 Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing – Province-wide Survey on Planning and Building Permitting Systems

12.7 Avon Maitland District School Board – Board Meeting Highlights – March 24, 2026

13. Unfinished Business

14. Council Reports

14.1 Council Member Reports

Reeve's Verbal Update from County Council

Reeve Harding noted that there will be a guest speaker at County Council tomorrow from the Conservation Authority to explain why they are trying to

reduce the number of Conservation Authorities.

Verbal Update from Council Members

Councillor Grimes provided an update from the Good Roads Conference that he and Manager of Public Works Scott Price attended March 29, 2026-April 1-2026 in Toronto. There was a lot of valuable information shared.

14.2 Requests by Members

14.3 Notice of Motions

14.4 Announcements

Thursday, April 9 and Saturday, April 11 are the Belmore Maple Syrup Festival.

15. Other Business

16. Enactment of By-laws – First, Second & Third Reading

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to by-laws 14-2026, 19-2026, 20-2026, 21-2026, and 22-2026.

Carried.

16.1 By-law 14-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 14-2026;

Being a By-law to amend Howick Zoning By-law 23-1984, as amended.

16.2 By-law 19-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 19-2026;

Being a By-law to Authorize the Entering into and Execution of a Recreation Program Service Agreement between the County of Huron and the Township of Howick to provide Fee Subsidies for Recreation Child Care Programs and Services.

16.3 By-Law 20-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 20-2026;

Being a By-law to Authorize the Entering into and Execution of a Recreation Provider Expanded Hours Declaration Agreement between the Minister of Education and the Township of Howick for the Provision of Expanded Hours for the 2026-27 School Year.

16.4 By-law 21-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 21-2026;

Being a By-law to adopt the 2026 Tax Rates for the Township of Howick.

16.5 By-law 22-2026

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 22-2026;

Being a By-law to Appoint 'Aird & Berlis LLP' as the Integrity Commissioner for the Corporation of the Township of Howick.

17. Closed Session

Moved by: Councillor Grimes

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That a closed meeting of Council of the Township of Howick be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 9:34 a.m. in the Council Chambers of the Township Office, in accordance with Section 239(2) of the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended, for the purpose of considering the following matters:

- (a) the security of property of the municipality or local board;
- (b) personal matters about identifiable individual, including municipal and local board employees;
- (e) litigation or potential litigation, including matters before administrative tribunals, affecting the municipality or local;
- (f) advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege, including communications necessary for that purpose.

Carried.

Agenda moved to Closed Agenda

Agenda Returned to Open Agenda

18. Motion to Reconvene into Open Session and Reporting Out

Moved by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

Seconded by: Councillor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick reconvene into Open Session at 10:17 a.m.

Carried.

Reeve Harding reported out of Closed Session that Council met to discuss the security of the property of the municipality, personal matters about an identifiable individual, litigation or potential litigation and advice that is subject to solicitor-client privilege regarding an unsafe building order and an order to restrict occupancy.

19. Confirming By-law

19.1 By-law 23-2026

Moved by: Councillor Rognvaldson

Seconded by: Councilor Grimes

That the Council of the Township of Howick give first, second, third and final reading to By-law 23-2026;

Being a By-law to Confirm the Proceedings of the Council meeting held on April 7, 2026.

Carried.

20. Adjournment

Moved by: Councillor Hargrave

Seconded by: Deputy Reeve Gibson

That the Council of the Township of Howick adjourn the April 7, 2026, Regular Council meeting at 10:18 a.m.

Carried.

Reeve Harding

CAO/Clerk Caitlin Gillis